



Litany for the Women

Victoria R. Wick

2020 MDiv graduate and Minister of Congregational and Community Care, First Christian Church of Hagerstown, Maryland

> Given October 2, 2021, at her ordination, Christian Temple, Baltimore, Maryland

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I am not the first woman minister in my lineage, but today I am the first who gets to be called reverend.

I have not made it here on my own. I want to thank the congregation of Christian Temple, especially my Nurture and Care Committee, Mark Wilson and the choir, and Rick Powell, for being a pastor who has taught me many things. Thank you to all of you who have joined me here today, especially to my friends and family.

I want to pay special tribute to the women, those who have gone before me and made a way where there was no way.

I thank the generations of women who have brought new worlds into being, for it was women who were the last ones at the cross with Jesus, and it was women who first visited the tomb. It was in women's homes that Christianity was nurtured and spread in the days when you risked your life to follow in the way of Christ. Women have been martyrs, missionaries, and mystics.

Women have been making our churches what they are since the very beginning. So, I thank the church secretaries and women's groups, who do the often-invisible labor of making everything work. I thank the women of Christian Temple in particular, who taught me that church can feel like home again, and who sent me a care package during each Chicago winter.

I thank the girls of this congregation and beyond who will grow into the women I cannot wait to learn from.

I thank all the women—professors, classmates, friends, roommates, colleagues, congregants—who have had something to teach me and have blessed me on my way.

Jayna Powell, the first ordained woman I ever heard preach, showed me through example what's possible, and, four years ago, told DDH that if they reopened their application for me seven months after the deadline they wouldn't regret it.

Kris Culp made room where there wasn't any room. I thank her for introducing me to feminist theology and for helping me find my own theological voice.

Cynthia Lindner taught me that there are so many ways to live a life, and so many ways to be a good pastor.

Bromleigh McCleneghan mentored me in my first pastoral role and expanded my

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BULLETIN

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Letter from the dean

The Disciples Divinity House is again filled with students.

This *Bulletin* captures some of the delight of gathering again as a community and of conversing and learning together in person. I hope it also conveys the tenacity and vision of current students in pursuing their studies, their vocations, and their conviction to make a difference in a weary, wounded world.

This fall, DDH welcomed three new Disciples Scholars and a dozen other new student residents from around the world and from varied backgrounds and religious traditions. Along with a full house, DDH has a full schedule for Monday dinners, programs, and chapel services. "Here we are, alive together in a complicated symbolvessel called our chapel, for which I am grateful," as DDH Scholar Benny VanDerburgh observed when he led a recent chapel service.

I, too, am grateful for a House that is alive with students from diverse places and traditions, and for the holy, symbol-filled place of the chapel. In it, stories are pictured and told of a shared search for the holy grail, where justice, knowledge, and goodness meet in the grace of God. The quest for the holy grail is a tale of finding and losing and finding again. Gathered together again, we are newly reminded of what can be lost, and of

the importance of good friends and shared effort for persevering in the quest.

Two initiatives, announced in this *Bulletin*, will undergird students and advance their vocations. One is an increase in scholarship awards, made possible through the success of the 125th Anniversary Campaign. The second is a new pre-/post-doctoral fellowship program in theological education leadership, which will create two work-learning opportunities for emerging leaders with \$40,000 stipends each.

Over many years, trustee leaders such as Jim Stockdale and Del Butterfield, who are remembered in these pages, have cared for the House as a building, institution, and place of learning and community. This *Bulletin* also contains the annual report of donors for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2021. By listing these names, we only begin to acknowledge what such generosity and care have meant.

Benny VanDerburgh concluded his chapel meditation, given on All Saints Day, by recognizing "the cloud of people that keep me here and shape me, though I did not know it or them." Like Benny, I give thanks for the cloud of friends, trustees, and alumni/ae who have sustained the Disciples Divinity House and its students over many decades.

With gratitude, Kristine A. Culp, Dean



ABOVE 2020 & 2021 graduates, clockwise, beginning left with Administrator Daette Lambert, Mark Lambert, Paige Spencer, Sarah Zuniga (in center), Aneesah Ettress, Kevin Gregory, Kate Gerike, Victoria Wick, Dean Kris Culp, Convocation speaker and trustee Marshall Dunn, Andrew Packman.



A convocation of joy

On September 17 and 18, DDH's 2020 and 2021 graduates returned for a delayed Convocation. The festivities provided a spirited welcome for new and returning students as well as the graduates.



"The Joy of Jesus" by Marshall Dunn

Alumnus, trustee, and minister emeritus of University Christian Church in Hyattsville, Maryland

Excerpted from the Convocation homily, given Saturday, September 18

In all my seventy-eight years I have only seen a handful of paintings of Jesus laughing or smiling. Yes, we read that Jesus wept, but oh I wish one of the gospel writers had also written "Jesus laughed!" I have imagined Jesus and the disciples sitting around a fire at night telling stories, laughing at some of the things that had happened during the day. Theirs was a holy friendship—like that you and I have enjoyed at DDH.

The New Testament scholar Marcus Borg argues that Jesus had a wonderful way with words to grab our attention, break the tension, and make people laugh. Images like a speck verses a log in someone's eye, or it being easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter into heaven would have at least made his listeners chuckle while taking in a profound point.

In our text, Jesus tells his friends, "I have said these things to you so that my joy may be in you, and that your joy may be complete (John 15:11)." What was the essence of the joy that Jesus was giving his dearest friends? I think it was in leaving them in community with their dearest friends! His next sentence after giving them his joy was to say, "Love one another as I have loved you."



The pandemic has taken a huge toll on our joy, largely because we have been far more isolated from people we love and enjoy. In a recent *New York Times* article, organizational psychologist Adam Grant observes, "Collective effervescence [Émile Durkheim's concept] is the synchrony you feel when you slide into rhythm with strangers on a dance floor,



colleagues in a brainstorming session, cousins at a religious service or teammates on a soccer field. And during this pandemic, it's been largely absent from our lives."

Our Lord asks us to embrace his joy, not just his call to sacrificial discipleship. Yes, we are to work passionately for justice and an end to oppression of all kinds. We are to fight racism, feed the hungry, house the homeless and advocate for solutions to all these evils and more, but we are to do these things with the joy of Jesus in our hearts and on our lips, working together, eating together, laughing together, and praising God for the innumerable gifts God has given each of us.

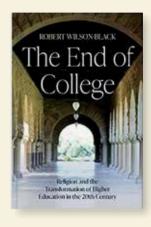


NEWS IN BRIEF



Ellie Leech (2019) was installed as Senior Pastor of Northwest Community Church in Seattle on October 24, 2021. She began ministry there on June 1.

Rob Wilson-Black (1991), CEO of Sojourners, discusses The End of College: Religion and the Transformation of Higher Education in the 20th Century in a new book published by Fortress Press. For this research, Dartmouth College has invited him to give the 2022 Orr Lecture.



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An increase of scholarships

Seventeen individuals have been named Disciples Divinity House Scholars for 2021–22, which allows them to immerse themselves in learning without incurring significant debt.

Within the past three years, scholarship awards named for Barbara and Clark Williamson, the Martin Family, and Dr. Geunhee and Mrs. Geunsoon Yu have been created. A generous bequest from Katherine A. Dey bolstered the M. Elizabeth Dey and the Drum and Tenant Scholarships. Such generosity has made it possible to provide increased awards of full tuition plus housing and a stipend of \$11,000.

ENTERING MDIV SCHOLARS

As previously announced, three new House Scholars have entered the MDiv program at the Divinity School as Disciples Scholars.

Justin Carlson, a summa cum laude 2012 graduate of Carlton College in Music who grew up in the First Christian Church in Minneapolis, is the *Oreon E. Scott Entering Scholar*. A former legal editor for the State of Minnesota, he plays the viola and has been active in the Upper Midwest Region.

Marissa Ilnitzki, a 2017 graduate of Georgetown University, where she majored in sociology and minored in environmental studies, has received the second-ever *Martin Family Scholarship*. It expresses the Martin family's commitment to leadership, congregations, and women in ministry.

Charlie Platt is the *William N. Weaver Entering Scholar*, named in tribute to a beloved alumnus who served as dean of students at the Divinity School. Charlie is 2016 *cum laude* graduate of St. Olaf College and 2020 MSW graduate from the University of Minnesota

who brings social work experience in church, educational, and community settings.

CONTINUING STUDENTS RECEIVE SPECIAL RECOGNITION



The Edward Scribner Ames Scholarship for high academic achievement has been awarded to Joel Brown, a PhD candidate in Religions in America. He is also the recipient

of a Divinity School Completion Fellowship for his dissertation on how leaders of Black Chicago congregations shaped the Social Gospel movement, including the particular contributions of African American women.



The W. Barnett
Blakemore Scholarship for ecumenical
vision and academic
achievement has
been awarded to
Ross Allen, a thirdyear MDiv student.
His interest in

ecumenism was nourished by ecumenical campus ministry at Kansas State; it motivated his visit to the World Council of Churches offices in Geneva, Switzerland this past summer.



The Alumni/ae Council selected **Benny VanDerburgh**, a third-year MDiv student to be this year's *William Daniel Cobb Alumni/ae Scholar*. Benny convenes DDH's chapel committee

and serves, with Ross Allen, as co-president of the DDH House Council.



Landon Wilcox, a third-year MDiv student who hopes to serve in military chaplaincy, is the Bernard F. and Annie Mae Cooke Scholar. The scholarship was established by a

spirited lay woman from Houston who prized excellence in ministry. Landon is President of the Divinity Students' Association (DSA).



The M. Elizabeth
Dey Scholar is PhD
candidate Hyein
Park, who is also a
recipient of a Divinity
School Dissertation
Completion Fellowship for her work
on women mystics

in Christianity and Buddhism.



Emily Springer, a third-year MDiv student whose interests center around disability, mental health, and spiritual community, is the *Drum and Tenant Scholar*.

Katherine Dey created these scholarships to remember her grandmother and dear friends.

The Rolland and Laura Frances Sheafor Scholarship has been awarded to MDiv student Hiatt Allen. Hiatt is a fourth-year dual MDiv-Master of Public Policy degree student. Mr. Sheafor, who was the president of Church Extension and was among the founders of the Christian Church Foundation, held dual degrees himself—the MA and JD.

Second-year MDiv student **Kerrigan Greene** is the recipient of the *M. Ray and Phyllis Schultz Scholarship*. Ray, who called himself a "peasant pastor," was a Navy veteran who built the scholarship through monthly gifts in gratitude for what he received as a House Scholar. Kerrigan serves as DDH's Assistant Head Resident and as a DSA officer.

As announced in the spring *Bulletin*, PhD candidate **Rachel Abdoler** is the inaugural recipient of the *Barbara and Clark Williamson Scholarship*. She studies the History of Christianity, focusing on the late medieval Copto-Islamic milieu.



Alexa Dava has been awarded the Dr. Geunhee and Mrs. Geunsoon Yu Scholarship, which recognizes high promise for innovative pastoral and intellectual leader-

ship, especially within multicultural contexts. In her studies and fieldwork, she is exploring the church's capacity to work with other religious communities to promote human flourishing. Alexa was part of the leadership team at Gilead Church before beginning her MDiv studies in fall 2020.

Four additional individuals have been named Disciples Divinity House Scholars for 2021–22: Monica Carmean, third-year MDiv; Danny Sanchez, second-year MDiv; Luke Soderstrom, who is preparing to take his PhD exams; and Virginia White, who passed her PhD qualifying exams in November.

ADDITIONAL RECOGNITION

Rachel Abdoler and Landon Wilcox are recipients of Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships for their study of Arabic and Mandarin Chinese languages, respectively.

Central Woodward Christian Church has selected **Ross Allen** and **Alexa Dava** as recipients of Edgar DeWitt Jones Scholarships.

The Walker Ministerial Scholarship, which recognizes promise in preaching and ministry and is administered through Brite Divinity School, was awarded to **Benny VanDerburgh**. •

Asher Arthur Smith arrived on May 20, 2021, to Kiah and **Aaron Smith** (2007). He was born in Atlanta's Northside Hospital, the same birthplace as Kiah, weighing 7 lbs, 10 oz, and measuring 19.5 inches. He just turned 6 months and his parents could not be happier.



Congratulations to **Kate Gerike** and **Kevin Gregory**(former resident and librarian) who married at the Christian Temple UMC in Chicago on October 16. Their wedding party included former DDH comrades **Savvy Gross, Ellie Leech,** and **Victoria Wick.**

Scott Seay (1991) is the president of the Association of Disciples for Theological Discussion (ADTD). He has become Director of Library & Information Services as well as Associate Professor at Christian Theological Seminary in Indianapolis.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Alexis Vaughan (2009) now serves full-time with the Interfaith Youth Core and as part-time Coordinator of Justice Ministries with the National Benevolent Association.



Iulian DeShazier (trustee) spoke as a representative of the community at the inauguration of Paul Alivisatos as the new President of the University of Chicago on October 29. "...[T]he university must be willing to be transformed by the South Side. Because on every block, there is deep wisdom and people who will lead and serve and must do so—and people who you must be led by, because they, too, have greatness to offer."

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In memoriam

James Ellsworth Stockdale, alumnus, distinguished minister, and longtime trustee, died on October 19. He was 91.

A passionate advocate of the Disciples Divinity House, he was the president of DDH's Alumni/ae Council before being elected to its Board of Trustees in 1985. He served on the board for thirty-four years, including as Vice President and chair of the Development Committee.

Born to Virgil and Catherine Stockdale on August 13, 1930, Jim grew up in Peoria, Illinois, with his younger brother, Tom. He graduated from Bradley University and, in 1952, married Patricia Gibson. They moved to Chicago where Jim earned his BD degree at the University of Chicago Divinity School as a Disciples Divinity House Scholar. His brother followed his path to the Divinity School and DDH, as ultimately did Jim and Pat's youngest son, Jonathan, who earned a PhD.

After Jim's ordination in 1956, he began a distinguished career in congregational ministry at Orchard Street Church in nearby Blue Island, and then at First Christian Church in Mt. Carmel, Illinois. In 1970, he was called to University Christian Church in Seattle, serving as its Senior Minister until 1994. Under his leadership, the congregation extended its witness of intellectual and community



engagement, inclusion, accessibility, and strong support for the arts and ecumenism. When the congregation ceased its common life in 2018, it honored Mr. Stockdale through a magnificent gift to DDH that removed physical barriers and created a stunning and welcoming entrance courtyard.

In retirement, he enjoyed music, theater, and ballet events, taking regular trips to the Oregon coast, and a commitment to his grandchildren that even led to coaching soccer. James E. Stockdale is survived by his wife Pat; their children, Mark, Jennifer, and Jonathan; and their grandchildren, Graham, Catherine, Isaac, Julia, Lennox, Willa, and Theo. He was predeceased by his brother, Thomas V. Stockdale. A memorial service will be held on December 4 in Seattle. •

Lott elected to board

Colton Lott pays attention to institutions and the generations who are gathered by them.

Colton has been elected to an unexpired term on the Board of Trustees of the Disciples Divinity House. As Senior Minister of the First Christian Church of El Reno, Oklahoma, he has been instrumental in building church-community connections in El Reno and in the Oklahoma region. A 2018 MDiv graduate of the University of Chicago Divinity School and a 2015 BA graduate of Eureka College, he was ordained in his home congregation of Ada, Oklahoma. Cott also serves on the board of the Higher Education and Leadership Ministries of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). •



Fellowship in Theological Education Leadership

Two new fellowships will offer a full-time, in-residence work-learning opportunity for graduates who are preparing for their next vocational steps.

Duration: 12-month fellowships begin in fall 2022; possible one-year renewal.

Stipend: \$40,000 on an annual basis and with applicable benefits.

To apply: Full information available at ddh.uchicago.edu.

Fellows will hone organizational acuity, knowledge of higher and theological education, and institutional leadership skills while working closely with the dean, students, staff, and other key constituencies.

Functioning as members of the Disciples Divinity House professional staff, fellows will be engaged in aspects of educational and non-profit leadership on a schedule aligned with the academic year.

Possible areas of responsibility and learning are: educational programs, chapel and

worship coordination, interpretation, project planning and management, recruitment, fund development, alumni/ae relations, budgeting and finance, trustee engagement, longrange planning, and collaboration with other educational institutions and religious organizations.

Fellows will also pursue an area of special focus, which they will propose as part of the application process and which will be developed and advanced during the year. A small budget and tailored mentorship will be available.

Fellowship eligibility

- Earned MDiv or MA in religion or theological studies between 2020 and before the end of August 2022. PhD candidates who will earn their degree before the end of August 2022 and post-doctoral applicants are welcome to apply.
- High promise for pursuing PhD work/post-doctoral work relevant to institutions of theological education

- and/or related religious or nonprofit organizations.
- Capacity for leadership and collaborative work, including the ability for imaginative and independent project development.
- Commitment to the nurture of individuals for ministerial, theological, and religious leadership and to ecumenical/interreligious learning and community.
- Residence in Chicago for the duration of the fellowship. Housing at the Disciples Divinity House may be chosen as a portion of the stipend.
- Applications are especially encouraged from, but not limited to, members of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



Congratulations to **Judith Guy** (2013) and Seth
Thomas who married on
September 25 at the
Mackinaw [Illinois] Christian
Church. **Rebecca Anderson**(2007) performed the
ceremony.

Stephanie McLemore (1992) is now Director of

(1992) is now Director of Religious and Spiritual Life and University Chaplain at Denison University in Granville, Ohio. Since 2009, she had served at the University of Lynchburg, where she was Chaplain and Associate Dean for Wellness. Her Baccalaureate address to Lynchburg's class of 2021 charged them to "Go forth and be a Hornet Human."



NEWS IN BRIEF

Kristel Clayville (2001)

has been appointed to a full-time faculty position as Lecturer at the University of Illinois at Chicago. On November 15, she spoke for a DDH Monday forum about the memoir she is writing about having been a pandemic chaplain and about her work as a religion scholar, ethicist, and writer who focuses on how technology shapes our lives and experiences.



Dennis Landon (1970) has helped to organize a series of Open-Mic Poetry Nights at the First Baptist Church of Pottstown, Pennsylvania. On November 8, spoken word artist, and former DDH Associate Dean, Yvonne Gilmore (2001) was the special guest.

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A Legacy of Baringers and Butterfields

Del Butterfield dedicated his life to making things work. The Baringer family, historians by vocation and avocation, knew how consequential individual and communal action could be.

Del Butterfield and Ann Baringer Butterfield prized history, university education, and the Disciples Divinity House. That inspired them to provide for the Baringer Butterfield Fund. In 2005, Del and Ann established a charitable gift annuity through the Christian Church Foundation. Their gift of \$109,335 to create the endowed fund came to DDH this fall.

Ann Baringer and her twin sister, Susie, were born in Champaign-Urbana, Illinois, the only children of William and Louise Baringer. When their father accepted a position at Tulane University, the family moved to New Orleans. William E. Baringer was a scholar of Abraham Lincoln whose writing focused on "how we got Lincoln," as one commentator put it. His first book, *Lincoln's Rise to Power* (1937), was hailed as an exhaustive treatment of Lincoln's swift rise to the presidency and to greatness. He later wrote *A House Dividing* and *Lincoln's Vandalia*. He served as

Del and Ann prized history, university education, and DDH. That inspired them to provide for the Baringer Butterfield Fund.

Executive Director of the United States Lincoln Sesquicentennial Commission and edited its *Lincoln Day by Day: A Chronology 1809–1865* (1960, 3 vols.). During World War II, Louise Baringer, who had a fine voice, was called upon to serve as a cantor for a synagogue. In 1947, Mr. Baringer became a professor at the University of Florida and the family moved to Florida.

Ann and Susie enrolled at the University of Florida as undergraduates, where Ann met Del Butterfield. Ann earned her BA in Elementary Education and Del earned his BSE in Electrical Engineering. They married in 1958. Graduate



studies took Del into the emerging field of nuclear engineering, in which he earned the MSE in 1965.

In 1966, Del accepted a position with Commonwealth Edison. When he began, nuclear power plants were being built rapidly. The fire at the Tennessee Valley Authority's Brown's Ferry plant and the later incident at Three Mile Island spurred a significant increase in the safety of the plants. He became the director of State Nuclear Programs, and, later, a personnel administrator for Commonwealth Edison. The Butterfields raised two children, Lawrence and Susan. Ann became the lead interpreter/educator for the Naper Settlement living history museum.

The Butterfields had moved to the Chicago area at the urging of Ann's sister, Susie, and

her husband, Al Boynton. The son of a Disciples minister and the first PhD graduate in nuclear engineering from the University of Florida, he worked at Argonne National Laboratory. The Boyntons hosted early meetings for the new First Christian Church of Downers Grove; William E. Crowl, then a third-year Disciples House Scholar, was the founding minister.

It was through the congregation that the Butterfields began their long relationship with the Disciples Divinity House. Mr. Butterfield would serve as a trustee for thirty-five years, giving invaluable leadership to personnel, facilities, and investment matters.

In 1994, the Butterfields retired to DeSoto, Wisconsin. They built a house that overlooked the Mississippi River; they called it "Winemakers' Bluff" after its location and Del's hobby. Del served the village as its

president and worked in the local hardware store. Later the village named the street where they had lived the "Del Butterfield Honorary Parkway."

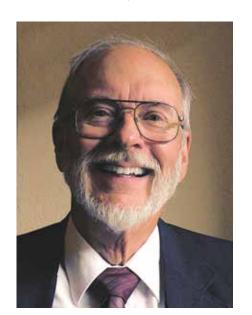
When Ann Baringer Butterfield died in 2007, she was the last in a line of Baringers. Ann's parents, William and Louise Baringer had died in 2000 and 2004, respectively. Ann's sister Susie died in 2004 (her husband predeceased her). In 2009, Del remarried; he and his second wife, Lois, later relocated to Florida. He remained devoted to his alma mater, the University of Florida. He died on September 28. (See below.)

We give thanks for these gifts of leadership, history, and friendship, richly shared with the Disciples Divinity House, and for lives dedicated to making things work and understanding when and why they do. •

Remembering Del

Lawrence Del Butterfield, who served as a trustee for thirty-five years, died on September 25 in Florida. Born in 1937, Del Butterfield studied at the University of Florida, where he earned BSE and MSE degrees in the emerging field of nuclear engineering.

He accepted a position with Commonwealth Edison in Illinois, and later became Director of State Nuclear Programs. Eventually he moved into personnel administration. He met Ann Baringer while they were students at the University of Florida. They married in 1958 and raised two children, Lawrence and Susan.

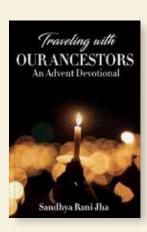


Mr. Butterfield, who was a member of First Christian Church of Downers Grove, joined the Board of Trustees in 1974 at the invitation of Dean Blakemore. Over the next decades and until 2009, he gave crucial leadership to the Board, working also with Deans Browning, Gilpin, and Culp. He served as Secretary of the Board, Assistant Treasurer, member of the Finance Committee, and with particular excellence, as chair of the House Committee. He was generous with his time and attention, strengthening the Board's work in a wide range of matters from personnel, investments, the complete renovation of the kitchen and dining room, the refurbishment of the chapel and its pipe organ, to the minutiae of making things work.

In 2005, the Butterfields established the Baringer Butterfield Fund through the Christian Church Foundation with a charitable gift annuity to benefit DDH. (See the related article.) Ann Butterfield died in 2007. Del Butterfield is survived by second wife, Lois, whom he married in 2009, his children and their partners, and two grandchildren. •



Vy Nguyen (2004; trustee) attended the UN Climate Change Conference in Glasgow along with other faith leaders. He wrote, "The earth is the Lord's, and all that is in it ... That is good news. In this moment, it is also a call to prayer, to care, and to action. We hold in prayer all these world leaders who gathered in Glasgow, and we pray for all people of faith, around the world, who will work together in the season ahead to ensure the continued thriving of the earth."



Sandhya Jha (2001; trustee) has written *Traveling with Our Ancestors: An Advent Devotional*, for Chalice Press.



Congratulations to McKinna Daugherty (2010) and TI Shinners on the birth of Elliott Lewis Shinners on September 29, weighing 8 lbs, 4 oz., and measuring 19.5 inches long. Elliott and Danielle Cox's six-monthold. Walker Bateman, both attended an Alumni/ae Council meeting on Zoom in November!



Sarah Zuniga (2018) will be ordained to the Christian Ministry on March 27 by the Illinois-Wisconsin Region and Eureka Christian Church. She serves as Digital Content Specialist for Crossroads Antiracism Organizing and Training.

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Alumni/ae relations and special projects

Amy Bertschausen knows how to give wings to complex organizations.

A former nonprofit executive and current Alumni/ae Council member, she joined the DDH staff on an interim part-time basis, effective November 1. Amy is working with the Council to strengthen alumni/ae initiatives. In addition, she is helping to launch special projects, including the new fellows program announced in this Bulletin. She comments, "I'm so glad to be of service to DDH at such an exciting time of opportunity and new horizons."

Amy Bertschausen is an ordained Disciples minister, graduate of Bethany College, and a MDiv graduate of the Divinity School. She was previously the executive director of a large pastoral care and counseling center in St. Louis, and before that, in Appleton, Wisconsin. In both settings, she led a dramatic financial



turnaround, growth in service, and greater equity and diversity. She is sought after as a consultant, coach, and spiritual director. She looks forward to bringing those skills to her work at DDH.

She will work remotely from Mahtomedi, Minnesota, where her husband Roger Bertschausen, also a Divinity School graduate, serves as interim senior minister of the White Bear UU congregation. They are parents of Hattie and lan, who are both attorneys, and proud grandparents. •



Litany CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

idea of what a pastor can say and be. I thank her for being there for me when I learned from experience that when you witness to the truth, there will be forces that try to silence you.

And, finally, I thank my ancestors, my foremothers. Prophets and music-makers, poets and preachers, teachers, healers.

My great-great grandmothers carried spiritual traditions from their ancestral lands, and then reimagined them for a new time and place and passed them down to their children.

My grandmothers, the first theologians I ever knew, taught me how to pray and have prayed for me every day of my life.

My aunts were the first ones to teach me how it is that we can belong to people who have not birthed us.

I thank those I have called friend and sister. for making this lonely calling a little less lonely. **ABOVE** Victoria Wick receives a stole from her sister and mother. Alexandra and Lisa Wick

And finally, I thank my mother, who has taught me many things, including that it is okay to leave to find a better story.

I do not take the responsibilities and honors of this role lightly, and I pray I will do you proud. I pray I will do what I can for the sake of those who could not.

Because I am not the first woman minister in my lineage, but I am the first who gets to be called reverend.

Today I am claiming a title my foremothers could not. I know I cannot claim it alone. No ministry is done in isolation, no woman raises herself. We are loved into existence, and we will be loved into wholeness.

This is good news, my friends. *The* good news. It's gospel. •

Filled with generosity and vision

They met when they were students at the Disciples Divinity House. Together, they are building a life of service and scholarship—and the Lewton Sparks Family Fund.

April Lewton and Garry Sparks understand DDH's enduring effect on their lives. They decided to create the Lewton-Sparks Family Fund out of their deep gratitude for the financial support and loving community they received while at DDH. The fund, which was established during the 125th Anniversary, now stands at over \$25,000.

April Lewton has served as President of the Board of Trustees since January 2018, having first been elected to its membership in 2010. She is an ordained Disciples minister, 2007 MDiv graduate of the University of Chicago Divinity School, and proud graduate of Chapman University. She is Vice President of Development and Marketing at the National Benevolent Association (NBA). A highly regarded leader in the denomination, April is known for her speaking, generative ideas, and her hospitality—as well as for her savvy in interpretation and connection. She is the former moderator of the North American Pacific Asian Disciples (NAPAD).

Garry Sparks received his MDiv (2006) and PhD (2011) at the Divinity School as a Disciples Divinity House Scholar. He is Associate Professor of Religious Studies at George Mason University. He studies theological production in the Americas, particularly among





ABOVE April Lewton and Garry Sparks

Indigenous peoples. His anthropological and ethnohistorical approach relies on extensive fieldwork and language study among the K'iche' and Kagchikel Maya of Guatemala. The author of two books, *The Americas' First Theologies* (2017) and Rewriting Maya Religion (2019), he is coordinating a project to produce the first critical translations of the *Theologia Indorum* ("Theology for the Indians") from K'iche'an manuscripts.

"We are, in so many ways, each made up of a collection of stories, histories, literature, and cultural narratives. We learn more about ourselves and each other because of our abilities to explore, read, research, and discover," April observes. Before April or Garry ever came to DDH, each was shaped by its graduates

April and Garry recall the generosity and graces received from previous generations, and they want to add to these legacies to benefit future scholars and the wider world.

and leaders, in particular Frank Mabee and David and JoAnne Kagiwada. They recall the generosity and graces received from previous generations, and they want to add to these legacies to benefit future scholars and the wider world. Joining in this vision and generosity are Pam and Garry Sparks Sr. 💠

LEFT Pam and Garry Sparks Sr

What endures, what changes, what emerges for the Disciples during the pandemic? Terri Hord Owens (1999), General Minister and President of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), conversed with DDH students about these questions during an October 25 forum. She accented how theological imagination and reflection can sharpen attunement to the spirit and to social justice, which are vital for leadership.



Katherine Newman Kinnamon (1977) serves on the staff of the Mid-America Region as Coordinator of the Region's Commission on the Order of Ministry. She retired from congregational ministry in 2018. She is an elder at Compton Heights Christian Church in St. Louis.



A Recognition of Generosity

The generosity of individuals and organizations undergirds the work of the Disciples Divinity House and its students. Between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2021, gifts and grants received from 240 individuals, churches, and other organizations totaled \$356,937, with \$225,594 of that total directed for scholarship endowment and capital funds, primarily through the 125th Anniversary Campaign. Gifts for ongoing support totaled \$131,343, including \$31,603 given through the Disciples Mission Fund of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ).



Gifts are for ongoing support to the annual fund unless otherwise noted.

- * Designates a pledge payment for the 125th Anniversary Campaign to funds for endowed funds, accessibility and welcome, or unrestricted purposes.
- † Indicates deceased.

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ANNUAL Report

2020-2021

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Estate Gift

John McCawt

The Gertrude Gary Sutcliffe Society

Established in 1994, the Sutcliffe Society recognizes individuals who ensure the mission of Disciples Divinity House by providing for a gift through their estate. It is named in tribute to the woman whose vision and gifts built the original endowment, furnished the building, and completed the chapel. The Society encourages others to follow her example and honors those who carry forward the tradition of vision and action.

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The following gifts have sustained the mission of the Disciples Divinity House by providing funds for the endowment or for building funds. They represent gifts of \$10,000 or more (\$5,000 or more before 1975).

2020-2021 ANNUAL

Funds for the endowment

YEAR ESTABLISHED

1973

19	01 Ellen M. Thomas Fund	John N	orto
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19	13 New Endowment Fund		
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19	68 Samuel M. Jasper	2005	LC

Hugh T. Morrison W. Barnett Blakemore Scholarship Fund Henry Barton Robison Scholarship

1979 Edward Scribner Ames Scholarship 1979 M. Elizabeth Dey Scholarship 1979

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nd Margie Bryan Fund YEAR 1		ESTABLISHED
n and Victoria David Fund rt Gemmer Fund	1923 1923	Myrtilla A. Colbert Jones William Darnell MacClintock
W. and Anne Hoerner Hagberg Fund 5. and Marcia Hogevoll	1923 1923	Samuel Sweeny MacClintock William Henry Hoover
n Hunter Fund and JoAnne H. Kagiwada Fund	1928 1965	Gertrude Gary Sutcliffe Illinois-Wisconsin Capital Funds Appeal
e E. Lemmon Fund nd Winnie Mabee Fund	1992 1994	Burrus Dickinson
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o and Rebecca Onishi Fund and June E. Reeve	2009 2020	Capital Area Library Refurbishment University Christian Church, Seattle,
and Mary Lou Savage Fund H. and Laura Frances Sheafor Scholarship Fund	2020	in honor of James E. Stockdale Theodore and Beulah Beasley Foundation
. and Patricia G. Stockdale	2020	Thomas V. Stockdale memorial, sculpture commission

Litany for the women



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SAVE THE DATES ALUMNI/AE JUNE 10 & 11

AND FRIENDS GATHERING

The DDH Alumni/ae Council is pleased to announce a gathering of alumni, students, and friends in Chicago on June 10–11 to present the Distinguished Alumna/us Award. There is nothing like gathering together!

We'll gather to celebrate and to reflect together on the kind of goodness that comes even in times of trial and trouble.

The Council invites you to think about alumni/ae who are doing great work, those who are beacons of goodness in the world.

SEND YOUR NOMINATION BY JANUARY 15

The Distinguished Alumna/ us Award recognizes lifelong service and achievement by a Disciples Divinity House alumna or alumnus. The recipients have been exemplars of varied forms of ministry and service; in some sense, they have each defined these forms.

For more about the award go to ddh.uchicago.edu.

Please send your nomination to the Alumni/ae Council, c/o abertschausenDDH@ gmail.com or via the website.